

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes ~~at least one plural~~ conversation logic, wherein each of the plural conversation logic ~~that is~~ external to the workflow definition, and wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;
- b) when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering, by a computer, a service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, wherein the discovered service is selected from among plural services;
- c) ~~determining a corresponding~~ selecting one of the plural conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service; and
- d) dynamically plugging in the determined ~~conversation~~ selected logic into the node at run time in the computer.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering ~~[[a]]the~~ service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic includes the steps of:

- sending a service selection query;
- in response to the service selection query, ~~determining a~~ selecting a service from among the plural services based on a service selection rule;
- receiving a service reference; and
- wherein the step of ~~determining a corresponding~~ selecting the conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service further includes the step of using the service reference to ~~determine a~~ select the conversation logic for the ~~determined~~ selected service.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time comprising  
2 the steps of:  
3 maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes ~~at least one plural~~ conversation  
4 logic, wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to  
5 be performed on a respective service;  
6 at run-time, sending a service selection query to an electronic services platform or other  
7 service broker, wherein the service selection query is for selecting a service from among plural  
8 services;  
9 receiving, by a computer, a returned service identifier corresponding to the selected  
10 service; and  
11 selecting, by the computer, a conversation logic from among the plural conversation logic  
12 in the conversation logic repository based on the returned service identifier.

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein a particular one of the plural  
2 conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given ~~composite service~~ one of the plural services.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]]<sup>5</sup> wherein another of the plural  
2 conversation logic is shared by two or more ~~composite~~ of the plural services.

1 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation logic is not  
2 defined in a workflow at process definition time, the workflow defining a procedure that  
3 executes services.

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:  
2 performing late binding of the selected conversation logic at run-time.

1 10. (Cancelled)

1 11. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically selecting a conversation logic at run-  
2 time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation  
3 logic comprising:

4 [[a)] a workflow engine for processing workflow definition-definitions;

5 [[b)] a conversation logic repository that includes ~~at least one plural~~ plural conversation logic  
6 ~~and that [[is]]are~~ external to the workflow definition, wherein each of the plural conversation  
7 logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;  
8 an engine configured to select one of plural services for execution of the node with no  
9 hard-coded conversation logic; and

10 [[c)] a dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism configured to receive for  
11 ~~receiving~~ a service identifier that is associated with [[a)]the selected service at run-time, and  
12 ~~based thereon~~ on the service identifier to select for selecting a conversation logic from the plural  
13 conversation logic for interacting with the selected service at run-time.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

2 [[d)] a source for services[[:]], wherein the source discovers ~~services~~ the selected  
3 service based on a service selection rule;

4 wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism ~~(DCLSM)~~ selects  
5 ~~appropriate~~ is configured to select the conversation logic from the plural conversation logic  
6 ~~repository~~ based on [[a)]the discovered service.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the source for services is one of  
2 a service broker, a service marketplace, an e-services platform, a company, and an entity.

1 14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein only services that have a  
2 conversation protocol compatible with one of the conversation logic available in the repository  
3 are selected.

1 15. (Cancelled)

1 16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein a particular one of the plural  
2 conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given ~~composite service~~ one of the plural services.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[11]]~~16 wherein another of the plural  
2 conversation logic is shared by two or more ~~composite~~ of the plural services.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the selected conversation logic is  
2 not defined in the workflow definition at process definition time.

1 19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 wherein the dynamic conversation logic  
2 selection mechanism ~~performs~~ is configured to perform late binding of the selected conversation  
3 logic at run-time.

1 20.-26. (Cancelled)

1 27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are  
2 compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural  
3 conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the  
4 discovered service.

1 28. (New) The method of claim 3, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are  
2 compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural  
3 conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the selected  
4 service.

1 29. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the dynamic conversation logic is configured to  
2 dynamically plug the selected conversation logic into the node.

1     30.     (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the engine is configured to:  
2             submit a service selection query to an electronic services platform to perform selection of  
3     the service from the plural services.

1     31.     (New) The system of claim 11, wherein different ones of the plural conversation logic are  
2     compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein selecting one of the plural  
3     conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is compatible with the selected  
4     service.